



Australia
Project Fact Sheet 2022

Bibles For Bubs

Overview

The Bibles for Bubs project introduces children to the Bible from a very young age by providing their parents with age-appropriate Bibles and resources in the first five years of their life. The project enables families to engage with the Bible and encourages them to develop a family

Bible reading practice. Another benefit of the project is how it might encourage parents in their own faith journey and Bible reading.

The Need

Reading aloud to children is one of the most rewarding and beneficial activities an adult can choose to do. A survey conducted by Australian publisher Scholastic showed that, across all ages, the overwhelming majority of children (86%) say they loved being read books aloud at home. The top reason children say they enjoy being read aloud to is because it's a special time with their parents. Parents are encouraged to read to their children for at least 10 minutes a day. And what better book to read to children than the Bible?

Bibles For Bubs began in 2018 to celebrate Bible Society's bicentenary. Now in its fifth year, the program has become much bigger than anyone expected! The project helps enable parents to teach their young children the wonder of Opening The Bible and hearing God's stories.



Project Goals

The goal of this project is to build a lifetime of faith and reliance on God's word for children through early engagement with the stories of the Bible. Each year, the project aims to provide Bibles for 2,000 babies born in the previous year. For the following four years, during their birthday month, the children will receive a hand-written birthday card with an insert for parents with ideas to encourage faith and family Bible reading. On their fifth birthday the children will receive the gift of a CEV Big

Rescue Bible they can read through their primary school years. In 2022, the program will be open again to another 2,000 applicants. The first group of children who were registered as babies in 2018 will finish the program this year, and CEV Big Rescue Bibles will be sent to them for their birthdays.

Impact

Since its establishment in 2018, the Bibles For Bubs program has Opened The Bible to over 10,000 Australian children and their families. The project has provided parents with helpful resources and content to engage their children with the Bible, which have been received well.

Just as Timothy was 'made wise for salvation' from his childhood knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, taught to him by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Timothy 3:14-15), so these

children are being helped to build a foundational knowledge of God's word.

The project has gained popularity as grandparents and friends encourage their loved ones to apply. The influx of applications in 2021 (3,400 applications were received in the first week) is a testimony to the value that parents, grandparents and friends see in giving children the gift of God's word.

Testimonies

"Thank you so, so much for my child's first Bible. This Bible is perfect, stories are true and short. I couldn't find a Bible for my child, but was gifted a perfect one. Thank God and thank you Bible society team." - Melissa*, parent.

*name changed for privacy

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the children, that they would know God's love through reading his word.
- Pray for the children turning five this year, that they would be encouraged as they learn to read their 'big kid' Bible and continue to learn from God's word.
- Pray that parents will use the Bibles and resources to help build a lifetime of faith for their children.